

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10 SCS-03

SCA-01 SY-10 M-03 A-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /174 W

----- 091460

P R 171200 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2379

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1382

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAID US UG

SUBJECT: USG- GOU RELATIONS

REF: KAMPALA 1355 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER PAUL ETIANG FOR FORTY MINUTES AFTERNOON APRIL 16. BRIEFED HIM ON ALL POINTS CONTAINED IN INSTRUCTIONS ( REFTEL ). ETIANG MADE NO COMMENT ON THESE BUT SAID AT REQUEST PRESIDENT HE WISHED TO ASK ME FOR CONFIRMATIONS/ CLARIFICATIONS OF REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR MELADY HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AND USG HAD DECIDED TO TERMINATE AID PROGRAM. HE SAID PRESIDENT HAD BEEN " UPSET AND CONCERNED" BY THESE REPORTS, NOT BECAUSE OF LOSS OF MONEY OR TECHNICAL HELP BUT BECAUSE OF INDICATIONS THAT " GOOD WILL" BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES NO LONGER EXISTED. I RESPONDED TO EXTENT PERMITTED BY DEPARTMENT' S INSTRUCTIONS. ETIANG THEN DESCRIBED STEPS BEING TAKEN BY GOU TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC SECURITY SITUATION. HE PLANNED TO BRIEF GENERAL AMIN AFTER OUR MEETING AND SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IF GENERAL WOULD WANT TO SEE ME. END SUMMARY.

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QM FONMIN NOTETAKER WAS PRESENT AT MEETING WITH ETIANG. I RAISED FOUR MATTERS: (-1) AMIN' S TELEGRAPH RECEIVED; (2)

EX GRATIA PAYMENTS TO STROH/ SIEDLE FAMILIES: (3) USG VIEWS ON COMBATTING TERRORISM ; AND (4) STATEMENT BY KAMPALA PLO OFFICE RE BEIRUT EVENTS. ALL POINTS WERE DULY RECORDED BUT ETIANG SAID NOTHING IN RESPONSE.

WM WHEN I HAD FINISHED ETIANG SAID GENERAL AMIN HAD BEEN " VERY UPSET" BY REPORTS THAT AMBASSADOR MELADY HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AND THAT USG WAS PLANNING TO TERMINATE ITS AID PROGRAM. GENERAL HADA ASKED ETIANG WHETHER HE THOUGHT THESE REPORTS WERE JUST " BRITISH PROPAGANDA" ( BECAUSE OF SOURCE OF NEWS STORIES) OR WERE TRUE. GENERAL WANTED TO CALL ME IN BUT ETIANG SUGGESTED HE ASK FOR OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION AND EXPLANATION FIRST. ETIANG SAID HE WAS THEREFORE ASKING, ON BEHALF GENERAL, WHETHER AMBASSADOR MELADY HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN AND IF SO WHAT WERE THE REASONS? SECONDLY, WERE WE CLOSING DOWN OUR AID PROGRAM? IN REGARD TO LATTER, ETIANG SAID WHAT CONCERNED THE GENERAL WAS NOT THE LOSS OF MONEY OR TECHNICAL HELP FOR UGANDA BUT THE INDICATION THIS WOULD BE THAT " GOOD WILL" NO LONGER EXISTED BETWEEN UGANDA AND THE US.

3. I RESPONDED ON BOTH POINTS IN PRECISE TERMS AUTHORIZED BY STATE 69722 ( NOTAL). I ADDED THAT I UNDERSTOOD AID DIRECTOR JOHNSON HAD ALREADY BRIEFED HIM IN SOME DETAIL ON SECURITY CONCERNS AFFECTING USAID PERSONNEL ( KAMPALA 1383, NOTAL. I ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO SAY THAT PRESS STORIES HAD SEEMED TO EMANATE FROM BRITISH SOURCES, WITH THEIR STRESS ON IDEA THAT USG LINING UP ITS POLICIES WITH KHG' S. I SAID THAT ON THE CONTRARY USG DECIDES ITS POLICIES REGARDING ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS ON A BILATERAL BASIS AND LOOKS TO ITS OWN INTERESTS AND CONCERNS, NOT THOSE OF THIRD COUNTRIES, WHICH MIGHT BE QUITE DIVERGENT. I THEN ALLUDED TO SOME OF THE NON- ANALOGISTS SET FORTH IN PARA EIGHT OF KAMPALA 1354 ( NOTAL) TO MAKE THE POINT THAT US AND UK ARE NOT IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS IN UGANDA.

4. ETIANG SAID HE WOULD BE SEEING PRESIDENT IN 40 MINUTES' TIME AND WOULD BRIEF HIM ON OUR DISCUSSION. ADDED HE WOULD LET ME KNOW IF GENERAL WISHED TO SEE ME PERSONALLY. AT THIS POINT HE REMARKED THAT GENERAL AMIN WOULD NEVER COME TO US ON HIS KNEES BEGGING FOR AID SO IT WAS WRONG TO EXPECT THAT. I REPLIED WE EXPECTED NO SUCH THING.  
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TM ETIANG THEN STATED THAT GENERAL IS HARD AT WORK ON REORGANIZATION OF COUNTRY, HAS TAKEN SOME STEPS TO IMPROVE SECURITY AND WILL MOST PROBABLY TAKE MORE SHORTLY. ETIANG CLAIMED THERE IS LESS TENSION IN KAMPALA TODAY. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO GENERAL' S ACTION OF ORDERING BACK TO THE BARRACKS LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS WHO HAD SIMPLY ALLOCATED TO THEMSELVES ABANDONED ASIAN HOMES AND FLATS IN THE CAPITAL. THIS HAD BROUGHT THEM INTO CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH CIVILIAN POPULATION, WITH OBVIOUS RESULT OF CLASHES AND CONFLICTS THAT WRECKED SECURITY. NOW

THEY HAD ALL BEEN PACKED UP AND SENT TO THEIR CAMPS AND WERE NO LONGER ROAMING AROUND THE CAPITAL.

6. ETIANG FURTHER CLAIMED THAT HE AND HIS CIVILIAN COLLEAGUES IN ACTING CABINET ( HE TOLD NOTETAKER TO GO" OFF THE RECORD" AT THIS POINT) HAD BEEN " GETTING TO THE GENERAL" WITH IDEA THAT HE HAS TO DEMILITARIZE THE GOVERNMENT AND AT SAME TIME RESTORE DISCIPLINE TO THE ARMY. ETIANG SAID MAJOR CAUSE OF INDISCIPLINE IN ARMY IS THAT SENIOR OFFICERS ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THE LUCRATIVE BUSINESSES THEY HAVE ACQUIRED ( OFTEN HIDDEN UNDER NAMES OF RELATIVES) AND THE TROOPS ARE VERY HOSTILE TO THESE OFFICERS BECAUSE THEY SEE THEM GETTING RICH WHILE THEY STILL HAVE VERY LITTLE. SCHEME ETIANG CLAIMED IS BEING URGED ON GENERAL IS TO REMOVE REGIONAL MILITARY GOVERNORS AND THEN BY TELLING THEM THAT THEY HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ARMY CAREERS AND THEIR BUSINESSES, WITH EXPECTATIONS THEY WILL CHOOSE LATTER.

7. ETIANG SIAD IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY TO TAKE STEP TWO WITHOUT FIRST TAKING STEP ONE. ACCORDING TO HIM, DELAY IN NAMING OF NEW CABINET IS DUE TO GENERAL' S WRESTLING WITH THIS PROBLEM OF HOW TO EASE OUT THESE SENIOR OFFICER/ BUSINESSMEN AND REPALCE THEM IN ARMY COMMAND POSITIONS WITH MORE JUNIOR OFFICERS WHO ARE CLOSER TO THE TROOPS AND WHO HAVE NOT BEEN DISCREDITED BY BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AND GET- RICH- QUICK SCHEMES. ACCORDING ETIANG THES JUNIOR OFFICERS WILL BE ABLE TO INSTILL AND MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE IN ARMY. ETIANG MENTIONED THAT GOU IS NOT ANNOUNCING THESES MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY, FOR IT IS BETTER TO ACT INSTEAD OF TALKING ABOUT WHAT IS BEING DONE. GOU, HE SAID, IS COUNTING ON AMBASSADORS TO REPORT TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS THE IMPROVED SECURITY CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

8. COMMENT: I AM NOT CERTAIN THAT MESSAGE HAS GOT THROUGH  
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TO ETIANG ( AND VIA HIM TO THE GENERAL) THAT AID CLOSE- OUT IS FIRM AND IRREVERSIBLE. HOWEVER, THEY MUST SURELY BE GETTING THE MESSAGE INDIRECTLY THROUGH REPORTS CARRIED IN NAIROBI PAPERS ( KAMPALA 137 8 NOTAL), WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE CONFIRMED WHEN THEY RECEIVE REPORTS OF ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN US PAPERS AND ATTRIBUTED TO " WASHINGTON OFFICIALS" AND " STATE DEPARTMENT" ( STATE 70290). ETIANG' S HOPEFUL PROGNOSTICATIONS RE MEASURES TO IMPROVE SECURITY SITUATION ARE OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE A RECONSIDERATION OF WITHDRAWAL OF AID PERSONNEL. SINCE HE APPEARS TO TAKE AT FACE VALUE OUR INDICATIONS THAT THEY ARE BEING WITHDRAWN LARGELY FOR SECURITY REASONS. I CINTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A BIT MORE CANDOR WOULD STAND US IN GOOD STEAD AT THIS JUNCTURE. ETIANG SAID POINTEDLY, IN INTRO- DUCING GNERAL' S TWO QUESTIONS RE AMBASSADOR AND AID, THAT AS GENERAL IS FOND OF SAYING, HE BELIEVES IN FRANKNESS BETWEEN FRIENDS EVEN WHEN ADVICE BEING GIVEN IS NOT LIKELY TO BE WELL RECEIVED.

KEELEY

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